

CALIFORNIA'S  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
PERSONNEL PROGRAMS



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# **CALIFORNIA'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL PROGRAMS**

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[www.emsa.ca.gov](http://www.emsa.ca.gov)

# CALIFORNIA'S EMS PERSONNEL PROGRAMS

Thank you for expressing an interest in California's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel programs. We hope this will be of assistance to you and will answer the most commonly asked questions concerning California's Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training and certification requirements. Additional information may be found on our website at [www.emsa.ca.gov](http://www.emsa.ca.gov)

## ABOUT THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

The California Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority is the department within California state government that is empowered to develop and implement regulations governing the medical training and scope of practice standards for the following emergency medical care personnel:

- Emergency Medical Technician-I (EMT-I or EMT-Basic)
- Emergency Medical Technician-II (EMT-II or EMT-Intermediate)
- Paramedic
- Public Safety Personnel:
  - Firefighters
  - Peace Officers
  - Lifeguards

Additionally, the EMS Authority operates California's paramedic licensure program. This program coordinates with the National Registry of EMTs to administer written and skills exams to all initial applicants for paramedic licensure in California, and also issues licenses to all qualified initial and renewal paramedic applicants.

## LOCAL EMS AGENCIES

Actual day-to-day EMS system operations are the responsibility of the local EMS agencies. EMS systems are administered by either county or multi-county EMS agencies, which follow regulations and standards established by the State EMS Authority. Local EMS agencies are responsible for certifying EMT-I's and II's (however, EMTs employed by public safety agencies, such as fire departments and law enforcement agencies, may be certified by their

departments—certification is valid statewide). Local EMS agencies' certification and accreditation requirements are explained on the following pages. A list of local EMS agencies is provided on Pages 7, 8 and 9. You will note that the list identifies the level of EMS service (EMT-I, II, or Paramedic) used in each county or region.

## CALIFORNIA EMS PERSONNEL

In California, public safety personnel (firefighters, peace officers, and lifeguards) often administer prehospital medical assistance. These professionals are required by law to be trained, at a minimum, in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

An emergency medical technician, or EMT, as part of an EMS system, is a specially-trained and certified or licensed professional who renders immediate medical care in the prehospital setting to seriously ill or injured individuals. California has three levels of EMTs: EMT-I (or Basic), EMT-II (or Intermediate), and Paramedic. The following chart provides further information regarding the substantive differences between each of the three EMT categories. However, keep in mind the chart only summarizes the qualifications and requirements for each category.

**MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY, TRAINING AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS FOR  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) AND PARAMEDIC CATEGORIES  
IN CALIFORNIA**

	<b>EMT-I (EMT-Basic) (basic life support)</b>	<b>EMT-II (EMT-Intermediate) (limited advanced life support)</b>	<b>PARAMEDIC (advanced life support)</b>
Student Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 years of age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 years of age</li> <li>High school diploma or equivalent</li> <li>EMT-I certificate</li> <li>One year experience as an EMT-I</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 years of age</li> <li>High school diploma or equivalent</li> <li>EMT-I certificate</li> </ul>
Minimum Training Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>120 hours total</li> <li>~110 hours didactic</li> <li>~10 hours clinical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>306 hours total</li> <li>~210 hours didactic &amp; skills lab</li> <li>~96 hours hospital clinical training &amp; field internship to include 20 ALS patient contacts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1090 hours total</li> <li>~450 hours didactic &amp; skills lab</li> <li>~160 hours hospital clinical training</li> <li>~480 hours field internship to include 40 ALS patient contacts</li> </ul>
Minimum Scope of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient assessment</li> <li>Advanced first aid</li> <li>Use of adjunctive breathing aid &amp; administration of oxygen</li> <li>Automated External Defibrillator</li> <li>Cardiopulmonary resuscitation</li> <li>Transportation of ill &amp; injured persons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All EMT-I skills</li> <li>EKG monitoring</li> <li>Defibrillation &amp; Cardioversion</li> <li>Antishock trousers</li> <li>Intravenous infusion</li> <li>Esophageal airway</li> <li>Obtain venous blood</li> <li>9 medications (scope of practice varies by area)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All EMT-I and IIs skills and medications</li> <li>Laryngoscope</li> <li>Endotracheal (ET) intubation (adults, oral)</li> <li>Glucose measuring</li> <li>Valsalva's Maneuver</li> <li>Needle thoracostomy and cricothyroidotomy</li> <li>Nasogastric intubation (adult)</li> <li>21 medications</li> </ul>
Notable Optional Skills (added at the local level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manual Defibrillation</li> <li>Endotracheal (ET) intubation</li> <li>Esophageal-tracheal airway device (combitube)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endotracheal (ET) intubation</li> <li>Laryngoscope</li> <li>Gastric suction</li> <li>additional medications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local EMS agencies may add additional skills and medications if approved by the EMS Authority</li> </ul>
Written and Skills Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administered by the National Registry of EMTs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administered by training program or local EMS agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administered by the National Registry of EMTs</li> </ul>
Length of Certification or Licensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 year certification with retesting every 4 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 year certification with verification of compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 year licensure without retesting</li> </ul>
Refresher Course/ Continuing Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 hour refresher course or 24 hours of CE every 2 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48 hours of CE every 2 years &amp; 6 field care audits per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48 hours of CE every 2 years</li> </ul>
Certification & License Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified locally/valid statewide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certified locally/valid only where certified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed by State/valid statewide; local accreditation</li> </ul>

# **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-I**

## **(EMT-Basic)**

California law requires all ambulance attendants to be trained to the EMT-I level and many fire agencies require firefighters to be EMT-I trained. EMT-Is are often used as the first dispatched medical responder in a tiered emergency medical system.

### **Training**

Training for EMT-Is is offered at the local level by approved training programs. A list of approved training programs may be obtained through the EMS Authority via telephone, mail, or from our web page. Training hours consist of a minimum of 120 hours, broken down into 110 classroom and laboratory hours and 10 hours of supervised clinical experience. Students must have five actual patient contacts during their clinical training.

### **Testing**

In order to become certified as an EMT-I, an individual must first pass the approved written and skills examinations. The skills portion of the exam may be administered by an approved EMT-I training program. The written portion of the examination is computer based and administered at an authorized testing site. The EMT-I certifying examination in California is the National Registry EMT-Basic exam.

### **Certification**

After passing the written and skills exams, an applicant may be certified through the local EMS agency or through a public safety agency, both of which issue an EMT-I certification card. (They are also known as the certifying authority.)

Certification is valid for two years from the date of issue and is recognized statewide.

### **Recertification**

Every two years, an EMT-I must provide the certifying authority with proof of 24 hours of an approved refresher course or 24 hours of EMS approved continuing education units (CEUs), and be signed off as competent in ten skills every two years. Proof of completion of these requirements allows the certifying authority to recertify an EMT-I.

### **Reciprocity**

Individuals from out-of-state are eligible for California EMT-I certification by meeting the following requirements:

1. Individuals who possess a current and valid National Registry EMT-Basic, or National Registry EMT-Intermediate or paramedic certification or a current and valid out of state EMT-Intermediate or paramedic certification, and complete the application process for EMT-I certification. No additional training or testing is required.
2. For individuals without a National Registry EMT-Basic certification who do have a current, valid out of state EMT-I certification will need to successfully complete an approved EMT-I refresher course and pass the National Registry EMT-Basic examination and complete the application process for EMT-I certification.

### **Scope of Practice**

An EMT-I is trained and certified in basic life support practices. Basic life support (BLS) means emergency first aid and CPR procedures which, at a minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of CPR to maintain life without invasive techniques until the patient can be transported or until advanced life support (ALS) is available. Automated external defibrillation (AED) is now part of the basic scope of practice.

### **Optional Skills**

After receiving the appropriate training, EMT-Is may become locally approved in the following optional skills when approved by the local EMS agency's medical director:

- Manual defibrillation under the supervision of an EMT-II or paramedic.
- Use of the esophageal-tracheal airway device (combitube),
- Administer naloxone
- Epi Pen
- Perform blood glucose determination and administer the following medications:
  - Aspirin
  - Bronchodilators
  - Epi Pen

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-I (EMT-Basic)**

- Naloxone
- Nitroglycerine
- Glucagon
- Activated Charcoal
- Mark 1 Kits
  - Atropine
  - Pralidoxime Chloride
- Establish intravenous access under the direct supervision of a paramedic

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-II (EMT-Intermediate)**

An EMT-II is trained and certified in limited advanced life support (LALS) practices. In rural or sparsely populated areas of California, EMT-IIs may be the only responders who provide immediate medical intervention. Some local EMS agencies are phasing out EMT-II programs in favor of upgrading to paramedic programs. Note: California now has fewer than 200 EMT-IIs; contact the county you are interested in to determine if they use EMT-IIs, or refer to the attached list on pages 7,8, & 9.

### **Training**

Training programs for EMT-IIs are limited, because EMT-IIs are not utilized throughout California. To learn which counties use EMT-IIs refer to pages 7, 8 and 9. The minimum training hours for EMT-IIs is 306. The minimum number of hours for each portion of the training program is listed below, although most programs exceed this amount:

Didactic and skills	210 hours
Clinical and field/ Internship	<u>96 hours</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>306 hours</u></b>

### **Testing**

To become certified as an EMT-II, an individual must pass written and skills exams administered by the local EMS agency. Local EMS agencies determined if the testing will be administered by the training facility or the local EMS agency.

### **Certification**

After passing both the written and skills exams, an applicant may be certified through the local EMS agency by issuance of an EMT-II identification card. Certification is valid for two years from the date of issue. A small number of EMS agencies recognize EMT-IIs in their jurisdiction. Certification of EMT-IIs is recognized only by the issuing local EMS agency. Therefore, EMT-II certification is not valid statewide. In order to be certified in a different area by a different EMS agency, an applicant must provide proof of current EMT-II certification and employment with a provider in the new area, pass that agency's skills and written exams, and complete field orientation.

After successfully completing these steps, an applicant may then be certified by the new local EMS agency. Be sure to contact the local EMS agency to confirm the feasibility of practicing as an EMT-II in that agency's area of jurisdiction.

### **Recertification**

Every 2 years, an EMT-II must provide the local EMS agency with proof of completion of 48 hours of approved continuing education units (CEUs), 6 field care audits per year, and pass written and skills exams administered by the original certifying EMS agency.

### **Reciprocity**

An individual who possesses or has possessed a valid EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic license from another state may be eligible for certification when the individual has proof of training required for California EMT-IIs, has passed written and skills exams, and has successfully completed any additional training for any expanded scope of practice. In addition, Nationally Registered EMT-Intermediates may be eligible for California certification upon successful completion of a certifying county's written and skills exams. Again, please contact the local EMS agency in question, because EMT-II requirements vary from county to county.

### **Scope of Practice**

EMT-IIs are certified in the use of limited advanced life support (LALS) skills. LALS includes all EMT-I skills, EKG monitoring, defibrillation/ cardioversion, antishock trousers, intravenous infusion, esophageal airway, and 9 medications (jurisdictional scope of practice may vary).

### **Optional Skills**

In addition to the set LALS scope of practice, EMT-IIs can become certified to practice the following skills: endotracheal (ET) intubation, use of laryngoscope, gastric infusion, and the administration of additional medications. Additional optional skills and medications may be utilized in a particular jurisdiction upon approval by the EMS authority.

## **PARAMEDIC**

### **(EMT-Paramedic)**

A paramedic is trained and licensed in advanced life support (ALS) practices, which include the use of expanded skills and medications. The paramedic is typically employed by public safety agencies, such as fire departments, and by private ambulance companies. Paramedics are employed throughout the state's EMS system to provide ALS prehospital care.

#### **Training**

The minimum number of hours for each portion of the training program is listed below, although most programs exceed these amounts:

Didactic and skills	450 hours
Hospital and clinical training	160 hours
Field internship with 40 ALS patient contacts	<u>480 hours</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>1,090</u></b>

#### **Testing**

In order to practice as a paramedic, an individual must pass the National Registry of EMTs' written and skills exams. Tests are given on a regular basis throughout California; contact the EMS Authority or look on our web site to obtain a California test schedule.

#### **Licensure**

California law requires an individual to be licensed by the EMS Authority in order to practice as a paramedic. Licensure is valid statewide. Individuals seeking licensure should apply directly to the EMS Authority. Note: All licensees must undergo a California background check and submit proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency..

#### **Accreditation**

In addition to State licensure, a paramedic must be locally accredited in order to practice in any California county. Accreditation is orientation to local protocols and training in any local optional scope of practice for the particular local EMS agency jurisdiction. Paramedics must apply for accreditation directly to the local EMS agency.

#### **License Renewal**

Paramedics must complete a minimum of 48 hours of approved continuing education units (CEUs) every two years to maintain licensure.

#### **Reciprocity**

Individuals who possess a current paramedic certificate/license from another state, territory, or country, or from the National Registry of EMTs, are eligible for paramedic licensure in California when they submit documented proof of successful completion of the training required in California for paramedics, successfully pass the National Registry written and skills exam, and complete all license requirements. If an individual does not have the minimum number of training hours required by California, then enrollment in a paramedic training program may be required to obtain the additional hours.

#### **Scope of Practice**

Paramedics are trained and licensed in the use of advanced life support (ALS) skills. ALS includes all EMT-I and EMT-II skills, use of laryngoscope, endotracheal and nasogastric intubation, Valsalva's Maneuver, needle thoracostomy, administration of 21 drugs, and other skills listed on page 2.

#### **Optional Skills**

The EMS Authority can approve the use of additional skills and administration of additional medications by paramedics upon the request of a local EMS medical director.



**LOCAL EMS AGENCY LISTING**  
**MULTI-COUNTY EMS SYSTEMS**  
(Refer to map on last page for county locations)

**Central California (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

(Fresno, Kings, Madera, Tulare)

P.O. Box 11867

Fresno, CA 93775

(559) 445-3387

E-Mail: fkmems@fresno.ca.gov

**Mountain-Valley (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

(Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Stanislaus Counties)

1101 Standiford Avenue, #D1

Modesto, CA 95350

(209) 529-5085

E-Mail: ANDRIESEMS@aol.com

**North Coast (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)**

(Del Norte, Humboldt, and Lake Counties)

3340 Glenwood Ave.

Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 445-2081

E-Mail: coord@northcoast.com

execdir@northcoast.com

**Northern California (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)**

(Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties)

43 Hilltop Drive

Redding, CA 96003-2807

(530) 229-3979

**Inland Counties EMS Agency**

**(EMT-I, Paramedic)**

(San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties)

515 N. Arrowhead

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0060

(909) 388-5823

**Sierra-Sacramento Valley**

**(EMT-I, Paramedic)**

(Nevada, Placer, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties)

5995 Pacific Street

Rocklin, CA 95677

(916) 652-1701

E-Mail: Leonard@ssvems.com

**Coastal Valleys EMS**

(Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino)

**(EMT-I, II, Paramedic)**

Sonoma County

475 Aviation, Suite 200

Santa Rosa, CA 95403

(707) 525-6501 (Sonoma)

(707) 253-4341 (Napa)

E-Mail:

Note: this list is updated periodically. If you reach an expired phone number, call the EMS Authority at (916) 322-4336 for the correct number.

# LOCAL EMS AGENCY LISTING

## MULTI-COUNTY EMS SYSTEMS

(Refer to map on last page for county locations)

### **Fresno, Kings, Madera Counties (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

P.O. Box 11867  
Fresno, CA 93775  
(559) 445-3387  
E-Mail: fkmems@fresno.ca.gov

### **Mountain-Valley (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

(Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, and Stanislaus Counties)  
1101 Standiford Avenue, #D1  
Modesto, CA 95350  
(209) 529-5085  
E-Mail: ANDRIESEMS@aol.com

### **North Coast (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)**

(Del Norte, Humboldt, and Lake Counties)  
86 E Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
(707) 445-2081  
E-Mail: coord@northcoast.com  
execdir@northcoast.com

### **Northern California (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)**

(Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties)  
970 Executive Way  
Redding, CA 96002  
(530) 221-7900  
Harold Renollet, M.D., Medical Director  
8639 Olivewood court  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

### **Inland Counties EMS Agency**

#### **(EMT-I, Paramedic)**

(San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties)  
164 West Hospitality Lane, Ste. 4A  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0060  
(909) 888-7511

### **Sierra-Sacramento Valley**

#### **(EMT-I, Paramedic)**

(Nevada, Placer, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba Counties)  
3853 Taylor Road, Suite G  
Loomis, CA 95650  
(916) 652-3690  
E-Mail: S-SVAGENCY@aol.com

### **Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino (EMT-I, II, Paramedic)**

Sonoma County  
1030 Center Drive, Suite D  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
(707) 525-6501 (Sonoma)  
(707) 259-8694 (Napa)  
E-Mail: mkcoxon@pacbell.net

### **Mendocino County**

890 North Bush Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-4590

### **Napa County**

1500 Third Street, Suite B  
Napa, CA 94559  
(707) 253-4345

Note: this list is updated periodically. If you reach an expired phone number, call the EMS Authority at (916) 322-4336 for the correct number.

**SINGLE COUNTY EMS SYSTEMS**

**San Luis Obispo County (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

712 Fiero Lane #29

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

(805) 546-8728

E-Mail: SLOEMSA@FIX.NET

**San Mateo County (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

225 West 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue

San Mateo, CA 94403

(650) 573-2564

E-Mail: bpletz@mail.co.sanmateo.ca.us

**Santa Barbara County (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

300 North San Antonio Road

Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1316

(805) 681-5274

**Santa Clara County (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

645 South Bascom Room 139

San Jose, CA 95128

(408) 885-4250

**Santa Cruz County (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

1080 Emeline Avenue

P.O. Box 962

Santa Cruz, CA 95061

(408) 454-4120 Fax (408) 454-4488

**Solano County (EMT-I, II)**

1735 Enterprise Dr. Bldg., MS3-110

Fairfield, CA 94533

(707) 421-6685

**Tulare County (EMT-I, II)**

5957 South Mooney Boulevard

Visalia, CA 93277

(209) 737-4660 ext. 2311

**Tuolumne County (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

20111 Cedar Road North

Sonora, CA 95370

(209) 533-7405

**Ventura County (EMT-I, Paramedic)**

2323 Knoll Drive

Ventura, CA 93003

(805) 677-5270

E-Mail:

Barbara.Brodfuehrer@mail.co.ventura.ca.us